

Bryant wins NCAA Indoor title

Montecito native posts USC record in shot put

NEWS-PRESS STAFF REPORT

Carpinteria High School alumnus and USC senior Noah Bryant won the shot put at the NCAA Indoor Championships in Fayetteville, Ark., on Saturday with a mark of 67 feet, 5 ¼ inches, beating Idaho's Russ Winger by 1 ¼ inches.

The mark was a USC school record.

Bryant, the defending Pac-10 champion, was seeded fourth at the meet, but was confident he could win.

"It feels great to be a national champion. I came in expecting to win and just knowing that I had to get the job done," he said.

The win marks another accomplishment for Bryant since being hit in the face by a 16-pound hammer while warming up for a meet during the 2005 season. The accident left Bryant with severe facial injuries, but his remarkable toughness allowed a comeback.

"Once I figured out that I wasn't dead I knew I would



ASSOCIATED PRESS

USC's Noah Bryant reacts after throwing the shot 67 feet, 5-1/4 inches to win an NCAA title.

the Caprinteria coach.

Bryant has plenty of season left for the Trojans, and will look to claim the outdoor title in early June.

throw again," said the Montecito native, who currently bench presses 530 pounds. "I never had a broken spirit."

Bryant's parents, Dan and Susie, as well as older brother Josh and uncle Dennis were in attendance for the meet. Dan was an All-American thrower at Westmont College, while Josh, a Santa Barbara High alumnus, is a powerlifter by trade.

His former high school coach, John Hazelton, was ecstatic for Bryant.

"He's another developmental plateau from being our top guy and going to the Olympics. For him to do this early in the season is unbelievable," said